

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 11122 171042Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 170924Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6326

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 11122

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET SA US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW ATTACK: APPROACH TO SAUDIS ON U.S. KIDNAPPEES

REF: JIDDA 6375 (NOTAL)

1. FROM MY READING OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS ALLEGED TO EMANATE FROM MIDDLE EAST REPS OF ERITREAN INSURGENTS, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT PLO HAVE SEEN AND ARE UTILIZING OPPORTUNITY TO INJECT INTO ERITREAN SITUATION PLO AND BAATHIST DISSATISFACTIONS WITH LATEST EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT. PUBLIC STATEMENTS INCLUDE ACCUSATIONS THAT KAGNEW IS SPY STATION EAVESDROPPING ON ARAB COMMUNICATIONS, THAT KAGNEW IS INIMICAL TO INTERESTS OF ARAB NATIONS AND AFRICAN LIBERATION GROUPS, AND IS CONNECTED WITH U.S. COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL TO BE STATIONED IN SINAI, ALONG WITH ALLEGATIONS THAT KIDNAPPEES HAVE "ADMITTED" THESE KAGNEW ACTIVITIES. I STILL BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO EMIGREE ERITREANS IN BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT VIEWS OF ERITREAN REBELS WHO ARE HOLDING KIDNAPPEES IN ETHIOPIA. WE HAD GOOD EVIDENCE OF POOR COMMUNICATIONS AND DIVERGENCIES OF VIEW DURING FLURRY OF SIMILAR PUBLIC STATEMENTS AFTER JULY KIDNAPPING OF CISCO TWO.

2. DEPT SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO WIDEN THE EXISTING GAP BETWEEN INSURGENTS IN ERITREA AND THOSE PLO ELEMENTS THAT ARE TRYING TO STAMPEDE ELF/PLF INTO TAKING SIDES IN INTRA-

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ARAB DISPUTES. IF SECRETARY DECIDES TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH

PRINCE SAUD SEPT 18 (AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL), SECRETARY COULD SUGGEST
THAT SAUDIS GIVE IMMEDIATE WARNING TO ELF/PLF NOT TO ALLOW THEMSELVES
TO BE USED IN THIS WAY, ON PAIN OF LOSING SUPPORT OF MODERATE ARABS.
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN THIS CASE SAUDI AND U.S. INTERESTS CONVERGE.
EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE MIGHT ALSO BE MOBILIZED TO GIVE SIMILAR
WARNINGS TO ELF/PLS.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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